Harassment of ethnic minorities in the USA

267. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that the FBI is harassing ethnic minorities in the USA, especially Indians who are taking part in the American political process;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any representation or are aware of harassment of the Indians in the USA;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Government have received no reports of Indian nationals being harassed in the United States by FBI for participating in the U.S. political process.

(b) and (c) There have been some media reports abour U.S. citizens of Indian origin having been questioned by local authorities in this regard. It is also learnt that at least one of these individuals has taken up this matter through U.S. political channels. Government have not received any representation in this regard.

(d) It is the Government's clear policy to maintain correct and cordial relations with the Indian expatriate community and not interfere in the domestic political process or any way infringe U.S. domestic legal requirements.

Expulsion of Indian High Commission staff by Pakistan

268. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Pakistan had expelled four Indian Mission Staff, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?